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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,897	03/06/2002	Ancas Antoine	1417G P 703	9171

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EXAMINER

BOUCHELLE, LAURA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,897

Applicant(s)

ANTOINE, ANEAS

Examiner

Laura A. Bouchelle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of the previous office action is withdrawn. This is a new action on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-8, 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aneas (WO 98/0093037) in view Bourguignon et al (US 5735841).

4. Regarding claim 1, Aneas discloses a device for connection between a closed recipient and a container comprising a neck whose opening is closed by a stopper. Aneas discloses a base adapted to be mounted on a recipient 3 and comprising a sleeve 12 with an inner bore 12a. Aneas further discloses a hollow needle 5, a plunger 15, adapted to slide in the bore and has an edge of sleeve opposite a stopper 3b provided with stop means 18 adapted to cooperate with complementary means 16 provided on the plunger 15 to lock it in a position of transfer.

5. Regarding claims 6 and 7, Aneas discloses hooks 54 projecting radially with respect to the sleeve that are provided with a nose.

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6. Regarding claim 8, Aneas discloses a second sleeve 22 disposed radially outside an interior sleeve 12.

7. Regarding claim 10, Aneas discloses a means for temporarily stopping the plunger in the disengaged position and states that the invention is in position fastened and locked on a first receptacle, and in the inactivated position of the plunger comprising the perforating means.

8. Regarding claim 12, Aneas discloses a ready-to-use assembly comprising a closed recipient containing a product 2, with the recipient being provided with a neck 2a whose opening is closed by a stopper 3, with a connection device 1 mounted on said recipient. See Figs. 2-4.

9. Claims 1, 12, 13 differ from Aneas in calling for the needle to have a non-circular cross section. Bourguignon teaches a connector device comprising a needle 16 having a non-circular cross section that mates with a tubular element 42 having a corresponding non-circular cross section to prevent rotation or misalignment thereof (Col. 2, lines 53-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Aneas to include a needle and corresponding sleeve with a non-circular cross section as taught by Bourguignon to prevent rotation of the needle.

10. Claims 2 and 3 differ from Aneas in view of Bourguignon in calling for the cross section of the needle and the sleeve to be oval or polygonal. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to form the needle and sleeve with an oval

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or polygonal cross section. Applicant has not disclosed that having an oval or polygonal cross section serves any advantage or particular purpose or solves a stated problem. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill would expect Aneas in view of Bourguignon and applicant's invention to perform equally well with either a non-circular cross section or an oval or polygonal cross section because any non-circular configuration would perform the same function as any other. Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to modify Aneas in view of Bourguignon to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2 and 3 because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

11. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aneas in view of Bourguignon and further in view of Thibault et al (WO 99/53886).

12. Claim 11 differs from the above teachings in calling for the stop means to comprise at least one hollow of the outer surface of the needle and at least on projection. Thibault teaches using a hollow on the outer surface of a needle (hollow above 476, Fig. 10) that is engaged by a projection that extends from the inner radial surface of a sleeve 478 (Page 14, lines 27-29). See Fig. 11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Aneas in view of Bourguignon to include a hollow in the needle and projection on the inner surface of the sleeve as taught by Thibault to keep the needle in a disengaged position.

13. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aneas in view of Bourguignon in further in view of Manera (US 6706031).

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14. Claim 9 differs from the teachings above in calling for ribs that form a rigid barrier to rotation. Manera teaches using ribs connecting an inner sleeve 12 with a plunger 15 in order to form a rigid barrier for blocking rotation of the plunger with respect to the inner sleeve (Col. 4, lines 41-47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Aneas in view of Bourguignon to include ribs between the inner and outer sleeves as taught by Manera to prevent rotation of the sleeves with respect to each other.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments, see appeal brief, filed 10/06/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-8, 12, 13 under Aneas in view of Hilbar or Parker have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Aneas in view of Bourguignon as above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura A. Bouchelle whose telephone number is 571-272-2125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 517-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Laura A Bouchelle
Examiner
Art Unit 3763

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